



Flourish Courses Developed by Gordon-Conwell.

PC511 – Introduction to Pastoral Counseling

Course Developer: Dr. Rodney Cooper

Course Instructor: Rev. Barbara Brice

Fall 2021 (September 7th – December 13th, 2021)

Required Web Meeting:

September 7th (8-9 PM ET/7-8 PM CST/5-6 PM PT)

Contacts

Course Instructor: Rev. Barbara Brice (barbarafbrice@gmail.com)

Flourish Registrar: registrar@flourishmovement.org

Course Description

Introduction to Pastoral Counseling is designed to equip individuals in a variety of ministry and church settings to offer effective, short-term counseling and basic care from an integrative, pastoral perspective.

Themes will include theoretical approaches to pastoral counseling, the development of a personalized approach to pastoral counseling, the role of a pastoral counselor, pastoral counseling ethics, multicultural competence in pastoral counseling, and self-care.

This course is designed with the assumption that students are active participants in the learning process. This course is designed to value critical thinking, courteous dialogue, theological reflection, openness of expression, empathy toward others, and honest interaction.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and articulate a biblical and theological basis for pastoral counseling.

2. Explain several theoretical approaches to counseling that are compatible with a pastoral counseling model and describe their application in concrete counseling situations.
3. Identify and utilize key communication skills needed in the context of Christian care and pastoral counseling.
4. Create a personal philosophy of pastoral care and counseling that integrates theological, theoretical, and personal elements into a concrete approach suitable for a specific ministerial context.
5. Understand and observe basic ethical principles applicable to the practice of pastoral counseling.
6. Explain the role culture plays in the counseling process and develop greater inter-cultural sensitivity needed for the practice of pastoral counseling.
7. Articulate principles of and formulate a personalized plan for self-care.
8. Identify and assess basic types of psychological problems encountered in the local church and determine proper steps for pastoral care and referral.
9. Explain the primary issues and pastoral care approaches needed for ministry to common presenting issues in congregational life such as depression, anxiety, anger management, abuse, marital problems, and concerns regarding illness and death.

Course Modality

This course is offered online at flourishmovement.org. This online course has a fixed start and end date with scheduled weekly Lessons and associated Assignments and Activities. Although this course is primarily asynchronous (meaning that students usually do not have to be online at certain times to complete course requirements), students will need to adhere to weekly due dates. In addition, students will have to be present for occasional web meetings scheduled by the Instructor. Finally, students will be placed in small groups of 4-6 students. During select lessons, groups will find a mutually convenient time to meet together for discussion and group activities. More information can be found within the course site.

Those taking the course for personal enrichment are strongly encouraged to stay on track with the schedule for credit-seeking students. Access to course content is not guaranteed after the course end date.

Course Schedule

The course is organized into eleven content weeks called “Lessons,” one holiday week, and two additional weeks focused on completing major summative assignments. Weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday.

Week(s)	Dates	Lesson Title
1	Sept. 7-13	Introductions, Part 1
2	Sept. 14-20	Introductions, Part 2
3	Sept. 21-27	Our Roles as Pastoral Counselors, Part 1
4	Sept. 28-Oct. 4	Our Roles as Pastoral Counselors, Part 2
5	Oct. 5-11	What Makes Christian Counseling Unique
6	Oct. 12-18	Types of Responses Needed in Pastoral Counseling
7	Oct. 19-25	Strategic Pastoral Counseling
8	Oct. 26-Nov. 1	Solution-Focused Brief Therapy
9	Nov. 2-8	Marital Brief Therapy
10	Nov. 9-15	Ministry to the Grieving and Suicide
11	Nov. 16-22	Ethical Issues in Pastoral Counseling
12	Nov. 23-29	Thanksgiving Break – No Coursework Due
13-14	Nov. 30-Dec. 13	Final Course Assignments Completion Period

Course Requirements

I. Readings

Students are required to obtain and read several books for this course. Books can be obtained through www.gctscharlottebookstore.com or any online retailer. Weekly reading assignments are posted in the course site. Students are required to complete the readings to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

Required Books

Students should purchase the following books:

- Benner, David G., *Strategic Pastoral Counseling: A Short-Term Structured Model*. 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003. (ISBN-13: 978-0801026317)
- Clinebell, Howard, *Basic Types of Pastoral Care & Counseling*. 3rd Ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2011. (ISBN-13: 978-0687663804)

- Johnson, W. Brad. & Johnson, William L. *The Minister's Guide to Psychological Disorders and Treatments*. 2nd Ed. New York: Routledge, 2014. (ISBN-13: 978-0415712453)
- McIntosh, Gary L. and Rima, Samuel D. *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership: How to Become an Effective Leader by Confronting Potential Failure*. Revised Ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007. (ISBN-13: 978-0801068355)
- Turabian, Kate, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Ninth Ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. (ISBN-13: 978-0226430577)
- Wicks, Robert J. *Availability: The Challenge and Gift of Being Present*. Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books, 2015. (ISBN-13: 978-1933495910)

Recommended Books

The following books are recommended by the Course Developer, but are not required for purchase:

- Kibbe, Michael, *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015. (ISBN-13: 978-0830851317)
- Zissner, William, *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*. 30th Anniversary Ed. New York, Harper Perennial, 2016.(ISBN-13: 978-0060891541)

II. Reading Reflections

Students will submit one-page reflections of learning from each book. The reflections should not be a synopsis of the book, but should describe the student's takeaways, positive and negative, from the reading. Due dates for these reflections can be found within the course site.

III. Lectures

Students are required to watch weekly lecture videos. These videos are posted in the course site. Students are required to watch all of the lecture videos to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

IV. Activities and Assignments

Students will complete various individual and group activities and assignments associated with the content of the Lessons. Instructions and due dates for all the activities and assignments can be found within the course site.

V. Papers

Students will prepare three papers:

- The Dark Side Paper, which is based on McIntosh and Rima's *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership* (5 pages). Due on Monday, October 11, 2021.
- The Philosophy of Pastoral Care Paper will present your current approach to pastoral care based on your theological framework, your theoretical approach to pastoral counseling, and your particular ministry setting (10-12 pages). Due on Monday, November 1, 2021.
- The Case Conceptualization Paper, will be based on your Philosophy of Pastoral Counseling paper, and will demonstrate how to apply your approach to pastoral counseling to a specific problem that you are likely to encounter in your ministry setting (8-10 pages). Due on Monday, November 22, 2021.

Full descriptions of these papers can be found in the course site.

VI. Seminar on Mental Health Topic

Students will prepare a seminar on a mental health topic and present it to the congregation or group to whom they minister. The seminar is to be preventive in nature by educating the audience on what symptoms to be aware of and how the church is to respond compassionately and minister to those in need. Topics such as depression, grief, anxiety, doubt, identity, etc. are possible topics among others. Students are to prepare a PowerPoint (or equivalent) on the subject. Due on Monday, December 13, 2021.

VII. Web-Meetings with Course Instructor

Students will meet one time with the Course Instructor as a class to discuss course content and the syllabus. The date and time of this meeting is specified at the top of this syllabus. Information on how to connect will be available in the course site. Additionally, each student will meet with the Course Instructor once during the first week of October. Scheduling will be done between the student and the Course Instructor. A second individual meeting may be requested, by the student or the Course Instructor.

VIII. Course Reports

At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of all non-graded activities including reading, lecture viewing, and class web-meetings attendance.

Assignment Formatting and Submission

Writing assignments should be submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file in the course site (email submissions are not accepted).

All assignment file names should follow this convention:

FirstinitialLastname_AssignmentName_MMDDYY

example: JSmith_ResearchPaper_123119

All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point standard font and **should follow the most recent edition of Turabian (Chicago Style for Students and Researchers) for paper formatting and citations.**

Course Grading

All course grading will be completed by the Course Instructor. **All assignments and activities must be completed to pass the course.**

Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Lesson Assignments and Activities	20%
Reading Reflections	10%
Dark Side Paper	10%
Philosophy of Pastoral Care Paper	20%
Case Conceptualization Paper	20%
Seminar on Mental Health Topic	20%
Course Report (pass/fail) includes:	
Reading	Must complete to pass course.
Lecture Viewing	Must complete to pass course.
Class Web Sessions	Must attend to pass course.
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
		B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	Below 60
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

Academic Standards

All submitted materials should be of graduate level academic quality and edited to reflect the student's best effort. Students should ensure that their submitted work is free from spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors. Students who are not confident that their writing meets graduate level standards or who are looking to improve their writing abilities are encouraged to enroll in one or both of the following courses through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary:

- CT490 – Writing Skills Workshop. CT490 is a one-credit-hour online refresher course that introduces seminary students to essential grammar and composition skills necessary for pursuit of graduate-level writing.
- CT500 – Introduction to Theological Research and Writing. CT500 introduces students to graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, integrating sources, understanding and avoiding plagiarism, and the proper citation of sources following the Turabian style manual.

To enroll in one of these courses, please contact charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu.

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures.

Accommodations, Dropping the Course, and Extensions

If you are a student in need of accommodation due to disability, please contact registrar@flourishmovement.org for guidelines and next steps. It is the responsibility of the

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student to notify the Instructor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and amount you will be refunded or asked to pay depends on the type of student you are.

If you are a CLP2 student, you have until the start of the 7th week to drop the course for no additional charge. If you drop after the start of the 7th week, you will be asked to pay a \$150 drop fee. For the spring semester, the date to drop by, with no extra fee, would be October 25th.

If you are a Flourish or CLP1 student, the deadlines and refund percentages are below:

- September 17th – Last day to drop Fall course(s) for 100% refund
- October 1st – Last day to drop Fall course(s) for 80% refund
- October 22nd – Last day to drop Fall course(s) for 50% refund
- December 3rd – Last day to drop Fall course(s) with no refund

Once December 3rd passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will be asked to take an “incomplete” for the course.

When you request to drop a class, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have paid the additional fee (if applicable) and notified your professor.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by Taylor Woods. ***An Extension Petition must be submitted to registrar@flourishmovement.org no later than the Friday before the last day of the course.*** Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email Taylor Woods at registrar@flourishmovement.org with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ... Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. – Romans 12: 12, 15